



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Director of Children and Family Services
Executive Director of the Community Development Commission

At its meeting held January 10, 2006, the Board took the following action:

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The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisor Burke:

“In September 2004, the California Legislature enacted Senate Bill 855 (SB 855), which created in seven (7) Northern California counties, a separate State Community Care Licensing category to regulate Crisis Nurseries. Under this category, State licensed Crisis Nurseries operate with modified staffing levels, including volunteers, for the short term residential care and supervision of children, ages 0 to 6, placed there due to a crisis or stressful situation. Up to two-thirds of a Crisis Nursery population may be composed of children voluntarily placed by a parent or guardian for no more than 30 days; and up to one-third of the population may be composed of children placed by a child welfare agency for no more than 14 days. In view of the needs of Los Angeles County’s chronically homeless population, as well as the County’s acute needs should a natural disaster occur, the development of Crisis Nurseries across Los Angeles County could be an additional means by which to stabilize families in need.

“The Board instructed County staff to develop a team to provide services for families in Skid Row, co-lead by the Departments of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and Public Social Services (DPSS). The Team will be responsible for Skid Row outreach, with the goal of assuring child safety and providing ongoing case management. DCFS, through its Family Preservation Program, will first offer services. Refusal of services might trigger a safety assessment for the child. DCFS must not criminalize poverty, and yet these vulnerable children deserve a safe place to sleep. The addition of Crisis Nurseries to the battery of available services could be a valuable tool in addressing homelessness in Los Angeles County.

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“I therefore recommend that the Board instruct the Director of Children and Family Services to report back to the Board within 180 days on the feasibility of developing in Los Angeles County, a series of ‘Crisis Nurseries’, State-licensed nurseries that operate with modified staffing levels, including volunteers, for the short-term residential care and supervision of children, ages 0 to 6, placed there due to a crisis or stressful situation such as homelessness.”

Debra Reid and Warren Williams addressed the Board.

After discussion, Supervisor Knabe requested that Supervisor Burke’s motion be amended to also instruct the Executive Director of the Community Development Commission to explore potential sites throughout Los Angeles County that would be viable for use as crisis nurseries, and include their recommendations as part of the report coming forward from the Director of Children and Family Services within 180 days.

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Knabe, seconded by Supervisor Antonovich, unanimously carried (Supervisors Molina and Yaroslavsky being absent), the Board took the following actions:

1. Instructed the Director of Children and Family Services to report back to the Board within 180 days on the feasibility of developing in Los Angeles County, a series of “Crisis Nurseries”, State-licensed nurseries that operate with modified staffing levels, including volunteers, for the short-term residential care and supervision of children, ages 0 to 6, placed there due to a crisis or stressful situation such as homelessness; and
2. Instructed the Executive Director of the Community Development Commission to explore potential sites throughout Los Angeles County that would be viable for use as crisis nurseries, and include their recommendations as part of the report coming forward from the Director of Children and Family Services.

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